

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/582,898

**Applicant(s)**

TAZAWA, FUMIO

**Examiner**

KIHO KIM

**Art Unit**

2884

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/17/2010.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 20100308
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 6/13/06, 6/25/07/, and 3/3/08.

**DETAILED ACTION**  
**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary Jacobs on March 17, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

**With respect to independent claim 8:**

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image forming station that forms an image with a developer;  
a mounting portion that mounts a developer supply container accommodating a developer to be supplied to said image forming station;  
a developer receiving portion that receives the developer supplied through a discharge opening of the said developer supply container;  
a stirring drive transmitting portion that transmits a stirring driving force for driving a stirring member provided in the developer supply container to a stirring drive receiving portion provided in one of opposing sides of said the developer supply container;  
an opening and closing drive transmitting portion that transmits an opening and closing driving force for moving an openable member provided in the developer supply container to

open and close the discharge opening, the opening and closing drive transmitting portion being provided in the other one of the opposing sides ;

an opening and closing driving relay portion that receives the opening and closing driving force from said opening and closing drive transmitting portion and transmits the opening and closing driving force to an opening and closing drive receiving portion provided in the openable member,

wherein by mounting the developer supply container to the main assembly of said image forming apparatus, drive force transmittable engagements are established between said stirring drive transmitting portion and the said stirring drive receiving portion, between said opening and closing drive transmitting portion and said opening and closing driving relay portion, and between said opening and closing driving relay portion and the opening and closing drive receiving portion, respectively, so that the stirring driving force is transmittable from said stirring drive transmitting portion to the stirring drive receiving portion, and the opening and closing driving force is transmittable from said opening and closing drive transmitting portion to said opening and closing drive receiving portion, and

wherein a mounting direction in which the developer supply container is mounted to the main assembly of said image forming apparatus is opposed to the direction of a force received by the developer supply container from the main assembly of said image forming apparatus; and

a locking portion, provided adjacent each of portions which are opposed by the opposing sides when the developer supply container is mounted to said apparatus, that limits ~~limiting~~ movement of the developer supply container in a dismounting direction in which the developer

supply container is dismantled from the apparatus by engagement with an engaging portion of the developer supply container.

***Specification***

2. Abstract filed on March 17, 2010 is ok to enter.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1 – 14 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

**With respect to independent claim 1**, the prior art of record fails to teach a developer supply container for supplying developer to a developer receiving portion of a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus, said developer supply container being mountable to a main assembly of the image forming apparatus, said developer supply container comprising:  
an engaging portion, provided adjacent each of said opposing sides, that limits movement of said developer supply container in a dismantling direction in which said developer supply container is dismantled from the main assembly of the image forming apparatus by engagement with a locking portion provided in the main assembly of the image forming apparatus when said developer supply container is mounted to the main assembly of the image forming apparatus.

**With respect to independent claim 8**, the prior art of record fails to teach an image forming apparatus comprising:

a locking portion, provided adjacent each of portions which are opposed by the opposing sides when the developer supply container is mounted to said apparatus, that limits movement of the developer supply container in a dismantling direction in which the developer supply

container is dismantled from the apparatus by engagement with an engaging portion of the developer supply container.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KIHU KIM whose telephone number is (571)270-1628. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David P. Porta can be reached on (571)272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David P. Porta/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit  
2884

/Kiho Kim/  
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